

REMARKS

Applicants acknowledge receipt of an Office Action dated December 12, 2003. In this response, Applicants have cancelled claims 1-3, 5-7 and 9-14 without prejudice or disclaimer. Following entry of these amendments, claim 8 is pending in the application.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and the remarks that follow.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants acknowledge, with appreciation, the PTO's indication, on page 10 of the Office Action, that claim 8 has been allowed.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102/103

In order, hopefully, to obtain early issuance of this allowable subject matter, Applicants have cancelled claims 1-3, 5-7 and 9-14 without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102/103 set forth on pages 3-10 of the Office Action are now moot.

CONCLUSION

Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of

papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R.
§1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date 3/2/04

By P.D.S.

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